

Forgiveness of Sin

If Christianity be Right God is Willing to
Forgive All Sin But His Own.

(By John F. Clarke.)

A lot of fellows are in the business of forgiving sins.

An immunity from remorse is given, religiously, to those who have wronged other persons, by a priest, as agent of Jesus Christ.

God made man, and gave Jesus Christ, His Son, the power to atone for all the wrongs done by man. Jesus Christ, to check the sin—sewage from all passing through His system, imposes a toll upon mankind. First the test of belief checks the windy tide, and then the gate receipts, per rents, dues and collections; masses and marriage and funeral rites and rates, tend to check still further, until only a modicum of sin is atoned for.

A. wrongs B.—A. stones C., A. and C. are satisfied but where the devil does B. come in? C. says: "make an endless chain and all do wrong and all shift your burdens upon me and I will make it all right."

Some refuse to believe or to unload their vices upon C. D. says: "I am man enough to stand for my own wrong-doing." He goes to E. and says: "I took a mean advantage of you but I am ready to make amends." E. says: "Don't mention it. I did think it mean, but it no longer appears so." I feel better, and looks it. A. goes to C and says: "I did wrong, I got the best of B. and I want the peace of God in my heart, I believe, I receive." He says that he feels better, but he doubts it himself. Jacob was forgiven by Esau and felt relieved of his fear. He did not express any sorrow for his meanness. He had the spoil of Laban upon him, when he made peace with Esau. God forgave Jacob for both robberies and Jacob was grateful to God for His mercy. Bosh! David acted treacherously to Uriah, but did he ask Uriah to overlook his meanness? Not much! He asked God to forgive him. If he had treated God as he treated Uriah and then asked Uriah to smooth it over God would have raised hell. So should have Uriah. He should have killed the one and cursed the other.

No one asks me to forgive them trespasses against others. I have just as much power to forgive sins as the priests have, and God has as much power and right as I and the priests have. I could swing a glue-pot and chant and mumble a little Latin. I had an offer made me to become an Arch Bishop under Pope Schraeder. A fellow named Sheridan went with Schraeder and sent back his picture with his holy robes on him. He asked a friend of mine

to either take the Arch Bishop or persuade me to take it. We both declined. I once took a short ride upon a camel, "Bedella," but that did not make me familiar with Bedouin mystery; nor does wearing a cowl or cossack make any man gifted with grace sufficient to forgive a sin committed against someone else. If moral trespasses are forgiven, why not financial obligations? Why does not Priest Lafhearty forgive the \$10.00 that Mike McCarty owes to James O'Flynn? Sure, Jim's fist would mash two noses in two minutes. If Mike steals James' pig, Father Lafhearty will forgive the sin and help to eat the pig, and Mike will let the matter drop. How did God forgive the wrongs inflicted upon the Jews by the Egyptians? Did he tell the Egyptians to go and sin no more? He sent plagues to annoy them and their innocent cattle.

But then no one expects a God to be human. A God must have low as well as high attributes. He must be excessively bad to offset his extreme goodness so as to be an Equipoised God. His virtues must balance His vices. The first architect built the first God that way, and succeeding architects hate innovations. Propitiation by offering burnt sacrifices, incantations, praise prayer and psalmody; are supposed to open God's ears as the mystic words "Open Sesame" opened the door of the robbers cave. Moses smote the rock and said something—perhaps the Hebrew equivalent for "a long time between drink." He also evoked the largest quail sandwich on record—a 4 foot layer of quail between slices of land and sky. I never knew why the Jews spent 40 years in the wilderness instead of 40 days, until I heard of that rain of quails. It took them 40 years to eat up those quails. I do not think that they were quails at all, but tiny fledgling angels that God shook off the Heavenly. Roost Ornithology was in its infancy then and so were the angels. The Jews mistook angels for quails as they mistook mushrooms for manna.

God is willing to forgive all sins except His Own. God's chief sin against humanity is the imposition of credence in things not credible.

PAINE CENTENNIAL.

All Who are Willing to Help Should Begin
Writing to the Secretary.

(By James B. Elliott.)

The Paine Memorial Association desires to know how many admirers of Thomas Paine there are in the United States and if there are any who have been benefited by reading the Age of Reason. If there are

any sufficiently interested to put into practice what Col. Ingersoll has said:

"Hands that help are better far than lips that pray."

One hundred years will have passed since the death of this great man—and on June 9th next year we will celebrate the centenary of his death—at the place, New Rochelle where a monument has been erected to his memory by loving friends many of whom are dead, including Wilson McDonald, who made the bronze bust, of Fame on the monument—the funds for which were given by the receipts of a lecture on Paine by Col. Robt. G. Ingersoll, who has also joined Thomas Paine on a voyage to that undiscovered country where many of us are now on our way.

A few of us that are now left propose to honor the author of the Age of Reason by assembling together at the house in Bleeker street in New York City, still standing although reported by preachers of the gospel to be torn down and a bible publishing house erected on its site.) The addresses of the centennial are to be made by well-known admirers of Thomas Paine—showing the progress that has been made in religious thought in the century and how much of the same is due to Thomas Paine's writing.

The invitations that will be printed will be 100 and they will contain a reproduction from a very rare engraving worth its weight in gold, of the house in which Thomas Paine lived, with Madame Bonneville and sons Paine is seated at the window. The children playing at the cottage door. A description of the Paine home by one who passed the house daily will be printed on the card which will be a souvenir worth preserving. Those sending one dollar will receive a card while they last and a year's membership in the Association.

At Paine's funeral June 10th., 1908—Ware Madame Bonneville and her two sons (one became a General in the U. S. A.)—a Quaker preacher and two negroes who walked 25 miles to pay their respects. I shall be there next year if alive. How many readers of the Blade will be there with me.

Wouldn't Miss One.

WYLIE, TEXAS.—I simply drop you a line to assure you for some cause I failed to get my Blade of the 23rd of August, and I will be truly obliged if you will forward it to me, as I do not wish to miss a single issue; I will try to keep up my subscription, but I am very old and poor; still I want the Blade as long as I live. Enclose you some clippings to look over and comment on if you are so inclined. Please accept my sincere regards and best wishes—for yourself and the Blade.

MRS MARY P. CAMP.